

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (ROBINSON C.W.)

SUBJECT: VISIT OF DEPSEC ROBINSON : PRESS GUIDANCE - ECONOMIC
NEGOTIATIONS

Q. WHAT IS THE STATUS OF THE ECONOMIC NEGOTIATIONS?

A. WE HELD USEFUL TALKS IN WASHINGTON AND BELIEVE THAT
WE MADE SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS, PARTICULARLY IN ACHIEVING
IMPORTANT CLARIFICATIONS OF THE INTERESTS OF EACH SIDE.
THE TWO SIDES AGREED TO RESUME NEGOTIATIONS LATER THIS YEAR,
AND WE HOPE THAT WE CAN DO SO.

Q. WHAT IS THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE ECONOMIC TALKS
AND THE BASES NEGOTIATIONS?

A. THERE IS NO RELATIONSHIP. MILITARY CONSIDERATIONS
AND ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS ARE BEING DEALT WITH SEPARATELY,
IN DIFFERENT FORUMS, EACH ON THEIR OWN MERITS.

Q. WHAT CONCESSIONS IS THE U.S. WILLING TO GRANT THE
PHILIPPINES? CAN THE PHILIPPINES EXPECT TO BE EXEMPTED
FROM THE COMPETITIVE NEED LIMITATIONS ON GSP TREATMENT?

A. I DON'T THINK I'LL GO INTO THIS SORT OF DETAIL AT THIS TIME.
THE TWO SIDES OBVIOUSLY HAVE CERTAIN THINGS THEY WANT, AND THESE
WERE CLEARLY DEFINED THE LAST TIME WE TALKED. EACH UNDERSTANDS
THE OTHER'S POSITION, AND AS IN ALL NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN FRIENDS,
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I AM SURE EACH SIDE WILL TRY TO ACCOMMODATE THE OTHER TO THE

EXTENT POSSIBLE.

Q. WHAT DOES THE U.S. WANT IN TERMS OF AN INVESTMENT AGREEMENT? IS IT TRUE THE U.S. DEMANDS NATIONAL TREATMENT FOR ITS BUSINESS?

A. THE UNITED STATES UNDERSTANDS PHILIPPINE CONCERNS IN THIS REGARD AND HAS REPEATEDLY EMPHASIZED THAT IT DOES NOT SEEK NATIONAL TREATMENT. WE SIMPLY BELIEVE THAT THE CLIMATE FOR AMERICAN INVESTMENT WILL BE BETTER--AND THE PHILIPPINES WILL ATTRACT MORE INVESTMENT--IF INVESTORS CAN BE REASSURED THAT THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS IN EFFECT AT THE TIME THEY MAKE THEIR INVESTMENT WILL NOT SUDDENTLY BE CHANGED--IN OTHER WORDS THAT THE RULES OF THE GAME WILL REMAIN THE SAME. WE THINK THE PHILIPPINES SHARES THIS BELIEF, AND THIS BEING SO, THERE SHOULD BE NO GREAT DIFFICULTY IN AGREEING ON LANGUAGE TO EXPRESS THIS COMMON OBJECTIVE.

SULLIVAN

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